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Chief, D/GC
Chief, D/UG
Chief, D/GL

27 May 1960

Ca/G/RR

GSA Requirements on a Machine Translation Capability

1. The translation of foreign language documents into English is becoming a reality instead of a potentiality with the recent demonstration of a machine system which can translate Russian into English at a high rate of speed. The product is not polished, but it gives the correct meaning and represents a significant broadening of the resource base available to researchers needing to use foreign language documents as either the only available source or as a supplementary one. At present the system is limited to translation of Russian into English; but it is planned to extend it to handle other languages for which there is a demonstrated translation need.

2. It is requested that you review your present and potential needs for translation of foreign language documents into English. It is to be assumed that there would be no limits placed on the amount of material or the languages that could be presented for translation. The review should answer, but is not necessarily limited to, the following questions:

- a. In what languages would translation be required?
- b. What subjects, fields, or disciplines would you require to be covered?
- c. What is the estimated amount of material that would be presented for such translation? State as a number of pages.
- d. How important is it that an unlimited translation capability be developed and made available?

3. Your reply should be returned to this office by C.O.B. 6 June 1960.

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